

# Hunting and Trapping Emergency Order

Alaska Department  
of Fish and Game

Under the Authority of AS 16.05.060

**Emergency Order No.** 02-01-12

**Issued at:** Anchorage, Alaska  
June 30, 2012

**Effective Date:** 12:01 AM  
July 1, 2012

**Expiration Date:** June 30, 2013  
11:59 PM unless superseded by  
subsequent emergency order

## **EXPLANATION:**

In spring 1992 the Board of Game adopted a lynx tracking harvest strategy with framework trapping seasons of November 10–February 28 in Southcentral units. The Board delegated authority to the department to adjust season dates within this framework to track population cycles. In March 2005, the Board of Game determined that lynx hunting seasons but not bag limits would be included as part of the lynx tracking harvest strategy. In March 2009 the Board eliminated the tracking strategy in Unit 6 and established a permanent hunting and trapping season of Nov. 10 – Feb. 28.

This emergency order meets the lynx management needs for 2012–2013 by adjusting lynx hunting and trapping seasons for the Region II units managed under the lynx tracking harvest strategy.

Based on information collected during the past season, the following adjustments are made to the lynx hunting and trapping seasons. In Units 7 and 15, the hunting season will remain Nov. 10 - Jan. 31, and trapping will open from Jan. 1 – Feb. 15. In Unit 14C, the hunting season will be Dec. 1 – Jan. 31, and the trapping season Dec. 15 – Jan. 31.

Therefore, the following regulations in **5 AAC 85.060(4), Hunting seasons and bag limits for fur animals** and **5 AAC 84.270(5), Furbearer trapping**, are superseded by this emergency order, and the following provisions are effective for lynx hunting and trapping:

Unit	Open Season	Bag limit
<b>5 AAC 85.060(4), Hunting seasons and bag limits for fur animals</b>		
(4) Lynx		
Units 7, and 15	Nov. 10–Jan. 31	2 lynx

Unit 14C	Dec. 1 – Jan. 31	2 lynx
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**5AAC 84.270(5), Furbearer trapping**

(5) Lynx

Units 7 and 15	Jan. 1 – Feb. 15	No limit
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Unit 14C	Dec. 15 – Jan. 31	No limit
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All other lynx hunting and trapping regulations remain unchanged and are not affected by this emergency order.

Cora Campbell  
Commissioner

By delegation to: \_\_\_\_\_

Gino Del Frate  
Management Coordinator

**JUSTIFICATION:**

**Units 7 & 15: Kenai Peninsula**

Observations and track counts indicate snowshoe hare populations remain high in parts of the Kenai. Lynx populations are widely distributed and continue at high levels across the Kenai Peninsula. Hare and lynx populations in these areas last reached a population peak in 1998–1999, when lynx harvest reached 151. Lynx trapping on the Kenai Peninsula was reopened for the 2008–2009 season after being closed since 2002–2003.

These preliminary results indicate the lynx population may be at its cyclic peak. The 2011–2012 harvest was again at record highs with preliminary take of 456 with approximately 27% kittens. We expect kitten production and survival to continue declining during the next year. We also expect lynx harvest to decline for 1-2 years as the population moves toward the next cyclic low. Therefore, we will maintain the lynx hunting season from Nov. 10 – Jan. 31 and maintain the trapping season from Jan. 1 – Feb. 15 for 2012-2013.

**Units 14C Anchorage and Chugach State Park**

Snowshoe hare populations last peaked around 2000 to 2001 throughout most of Unit 14C. Lynx populations peaked during the 2001–2002 trapping season when harvest peaked at 5 lynx. Following the decline from this peak, lynx trapping was closed and reopened for 1 month during the 2005–2006 season. It was increased again to 6 weeks during the 2006–2007 season and maintained through the 2011–2012 season.

This unit does not have extensive habitat or refugia for lynx and has a relatively high proportion of short-term or short-line trappers. Observations by department staff and trappers indicated snowshoe hare and lynx populations are patchy but persist. Therefore, we will maintain the lynx hunting season from Dec. 1 – Jan. 31 and the trapping season from Dec. 15 – Jan. 31 for 2012-2013.

**DISTRIBUTION:**

1. The Honorable Lieutenant Governor
2. Assistant Attorney General (Board of Game Liaison) Anchorage
3. Commissioner, Department of Fish and Game
4. Division of Wildlife Conservation
  - Director
  - Deputy Director
  - Regional Supervisors
  - Region II Area Biologists
  - State-Federal Regulations Coordinator
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5. Division of Boards Executive Director
  - Board of Game members
6. Division of Subsistence
  - Director
7. Public Communications Nancy Long, ADF&G, Juneau
8. Department of Public Safety, Alaska Wildlife Troopers
  - Director
  - Detachment Commanders (Kenai, Palmer)
  - Field Offices
9. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
  - Regional Director, Anchorage
  - Office of Subsistence Management, Anchorage
  - Kenai National Refuge Manager
10. U.S. Forest Service, Regional Forester, Juneau
11. U.S. National Park Service, Regional Director, Anchorage
12. Local Magistrates
13. Advisory Committee Chairs
14. Trapper Organizations